The draft of the forthcoming EEA Assessment “Improving protection against chemical risks to European inland waters” is now available for EIONET consultation and review. Please note that the deadline for providing feedback is **28th September 2018**.

The report builds on the EEA’s recent report “European waters - Assessment of status and pressures”, based on reporting under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Focusing on chemicals in surface freshwaters, it considers in more detail what messages we can draw from the reporting:

* Reporting of priority substances under the WFD can provide important information about the effectiveness of source control for chemicals (e.g. REACH, IED). The assessment considers what conclusions we can draw in this respect.
* Trends in emissions to water could provide a useful indication as to the direction of travel for chemical status, given that mercury for example, is already widespread in the aquatic environment and having a significant effect on the status of water bodies. Review of data under E-PRTR, WISE-SoE and the WFD inventory, however, shows that the emissions data available are of limited value in this respect. Improving this situation seems necessary to help communicate progress in future.
* Concern over the role of chemical mixtures in the aquatic environment has increased over recent decades and there are now approaches which can provide an integrated measure of biological effects. A description of the approach is provided, with consideration about how this might fit in a water management context.

As a key EEA stakeholder, I would appreciate if you could consider and review this draft and provide your comments. with a focus on: the overview of chemicals and water legislation (Chapter 1), approaches described for better assessing the risk presented by chemical mixtures (Chapter 2), pollutants and emissions data (chapter 3 and annex A), strategies to reduce chemical pollution (Chapter 4) and conclusions towards improving protection against chemical risks (chapter 5). Examples or case studies, particularly from southern and eastern Europe, would be welcome. Please note, improvements in the formatting and layout are intended following this consultation.

The invitation to review has been sent to the EIONET National Reference Centres on Water Quality, Water Emissions, Marine, and Industrial Pollution. It has also been send to National Focal Points, the European Commission services and other international organisations and experts.

To submit your comments please use your EIONET Account to access the online review platform at

<https://forum.eionet.europa.eu/nrc-eionet-freshwater/library/2018-chemicals-inland-waters/consultation-improving-protection-against-chemical-risks-to-inland-waters>

If you wish to familiarise yourself with the report before commenting a pdf version of the report can be found on the online review platform as well. We would however like to ask you to provide your comments via the online review platform and not via email based on the pdf file. Use of the online platform enables us to review your comments systematically.

The access to provide comments has been limited to the users in this invitation. However, you can invite other Eionet colleagues by forwarding the link above to them. After they open the link and log in with their Eionet account, a button “Apply for reviewer rights” will appear.

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For technical support please contact EIONET helpdesk at: helpdesk@eionet.europa.eu

I hope you find the draft report informative look forward to receiving your comments. If you have any questions regarding the report please do not hesitate to get in contact with me (Caroline.Whalley@eea.europa.eu).

Looking forward to an interesting and constructive collaboration,

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Whalley